

The Agriculture Security Assistance Act is primarily aimed at assisting States and communities in responding to threats to the agriculture industry. The legislation will provide funds for communities and States to increase their ability to handle a crisis. It also will help animal health professionals to participate in community emergency planning activities to assist agriculturists in strengthening their defenses against a terrorist threat.

The Agriculture Security Preparedness Act will enable better interagency coordination thereby enhancing agriculture security. The legislation will establish senior level liaisons in Departments of Homeland Security, DHS, and Health and Human Services, HHS, to coordinate with USDA on agricultural disease emergency management and response. The bill requires DHS and USDA to work with the Department of Transportation to address the risks associated with transporting animals, plants, and people between and around farms.

Recently Mother Nature has provided warnings of the costs and dangers of a possible agroterrorist attack. In May, Canadians discovered that an 8-year-old cow that had been killed in January was infected with mad cow disease. The same disease affected cattle in Britain in the 1980s and 1990s leading to a slaughter of over 3.7 million animals.

Canada faced an enormous adverse economic impact due to the discovery of the mad cow disease. Canada's cattle industry generates \$7 billion in cattle sales and the industry remained paralyzed during the period immediately following the discovery of the disease. Major importers of Canada's beef, like the United States, Mexico, Japan and Australia, temporarily halted their imports causing almost \$8 million a day loss to the cattle industry. The news also affected companies like McDonald's, Wendy's, and Tyson Foods.

Canada acted to control the spread of the disease by quarantining herds of suspected cattle and slaughtering them to test for the presence of the disease. All the herds believed to have come in contact with the infected cow were quarantined and killed for medical examination. More than 2,700 Canadian cattle were slaughtered and eighteen farms were quarantined in the process of determining the disease's source and to control the spread of the disease.

In the United States, the southwest poultry industry has been beset by a costly outbreak of Exotic Newcastle Disease, END, since last fall. The outbreak was first detected in a backyard chicken flock in Los Angeles County in early October 2002. It then spread to Nevada, Arizona and Texas. Over the past months, some 25 countries including the European Union have put embargoes on chicken from affected areas. In Texas, where the poultry industry employs about 15,000 people and is ranked sixth in the Nation, the industry said it could lose about \$100 million as a result of the embargoes. In Cali-

fornia, State officials ordered the destruction of more than 3 million birds, enforcing a quarantine over a wide area. The outbreak in 2002 and 2003 cost the state almost \$100 million to control the spread of the disease.

We all know an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. The Nation's capability to counter agroterrorism is increasing. But agriculture's central importance to our country suggests greater efforts are needed. As the recent cases of Mad Cow and Exotic Newcastle disease dramatically demonstrate, the consequences of a lack of preparedness could be quite high. Containing these naturally occurring diseases was costly and it involved extensive coordination. It could be much more difficult to counter a deliberate attack. The two bills I have introduced will help us to act now so that a future agroterrorist attack can be avoided, or dealt with rapidly before it can get out of hand. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### THE HARNEY LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL TEAM

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Rapid City Harney All-Star Little League softball team. The Rapid City Harney All-Stars, under coaches Rich Larsen and Rick Johnson, made it to the Central Regional Championship Game August 1, in Joplin, MO.

The Rapid City Harney All-Stars went through the Central Regional Tournament with wins over such teams as, Illinois with a final score of 10-5, and Kansas with a winning score of 18-0. They advanced to the championship game by defeating the Tallmadge Little League team from Tallmadge, OH with a winning score of 9-5.

These young people represented Rapid City and South Dakota in an extraordinary fashion. Their hard work is representative of South Dakota and has resulted in a great outcome. I would like to give credit to the coaches, parents, supporters and organizers and especially the hard work and dedication of these young players. I would like the community of Rapid City to recognize the hard work, dedication, and sportsmanship this team has shown on their way through the tournament. This is a well deserved victory and the team deserves to be acknowledged for their extraordinary achievement.

I want to recognize Manager Dave Johnson, Coach Rich Larsen, and Coach Rick Johnson for their guidance and support to help make this year's team so successful. I also want to congratulate all of this year's team members: Hailey Rae Brown, Nicole Tresch, Andrea Johnson, Kaitlyn Ringo, Camie Johnson, Stevie Wessel, Devin Jacob, Ashley Kiewel, Dawn Henderson, Allysa Nelson, Alysa Sack, and Ali

Larson for their hard work, dedication and commitment this thriving season.

Again, congratulations to the Rapid City Harney All-Stars on fighting their way to within one game of the World Series in Portland, OR.●

#### HONORING ROBERT DUXBURY

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to publicly command Robert Duxbury of Wessington, SD, on his selection as one of South Dakota State University's Eminent Farmers for 2003.

The Eminent Farmer and Home-maker Program, which was honored nominees since 1927, seeks farmers who have not only made significant contributions to their community, State and Nation, but have also given unselfishly of their talent, time and leadership to public programs, educational institutions, and church.

Bob has earned the respect and admiration of all those who have had the opportunity to work with him. His love for South Dakota and passion for agriculture set him apart from other outstanding farmers in the State. Bob's friendly demeanor and wealth of knowledge have helped him develop close relationships in various agriculture groups, including the South Dakota 4-H Leaders Association and the State Fair Board. Bob has also served South Dakota in additional capacities: as a member in the South Dakota Legislature in both the Senate and House of Representatives; as a senior member of the Appropriations Committee for nearly 20 years; and as South Dakota secretary of agriculture from 1975 to 1978. Furthermore, after earning a degree from South Dakota State College, Bob used his extensive agriculture know-how to teach animal science and coach livestock-judging teams from 1956 to 1959.

Americans are the envy of the world because we enjoy the most affordable and the safest food, spending only 10 percent of our household income on groceries. Agricultural producers in the U.S. must cope with the unpredictability of the weather, markets, and government policy, yet time and time again they are the most productive and efficient in the entire world. Farming and ranching families provide immeasurable contributions to quality of life, economic development, and the culture of rural America. Farmers and ranchers are the backbone of South Dakota's economy and should be commended for what they do.

This prestigious honor is a reflection of Bob's extraordinary success as a farmer, as well as his commitment to conservation, and contributions to the community. I am proud to claim Bob as a good personal friend and former colleague in the South Dakota legislature. I am pleased that his agricultural leadership is being publicly recognized, and that his achievements will serve as a model for outstanding agricultural producers throughout the state to emulate. It is with great honor that I share